



## Recent Tsunami Detection Developments

David McKinnie, NOAA

NDWC Briefings

29 May 2006

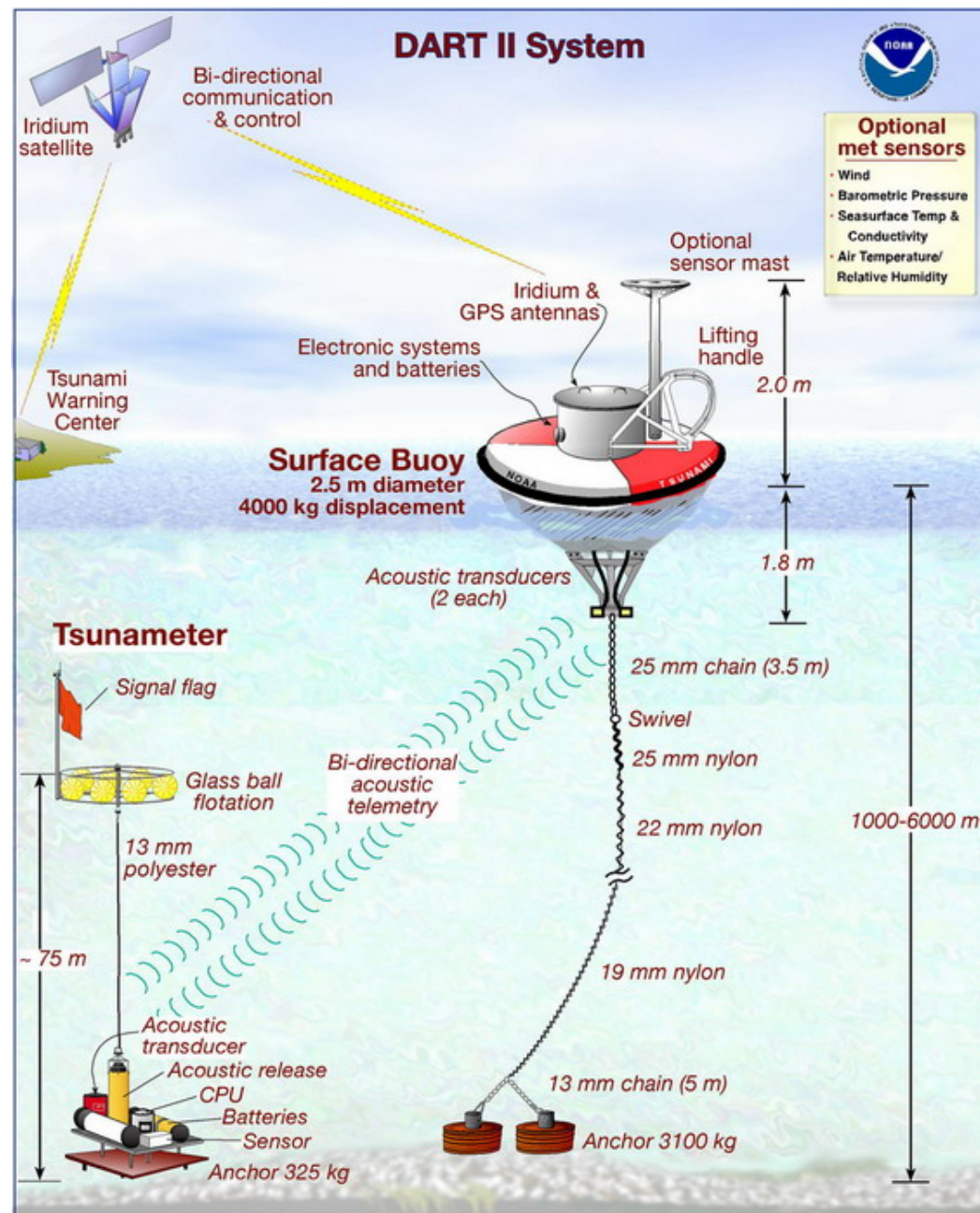


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# Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunami (DART) History

- US has invested in research and development of DART technology since 1990
- First generation DART (one way real-time reporting via GOES satellite) became operational in 2002
- Second generation DART II (two-way real-time reporting via Iridium satellites) became operational in 2005
- Technical details of DART II were placed on web site in June 2005 to share technology with world
- Within 1 year, commercial DART II –like products were brought to market by Fugro and Sonardyne
- DART II (easy to deploy) research prototype deployed in 2006, funds available for further development



# Update on DART Developments

- US has 15 DARTs deployed
- Fugro (Norway) has developed a commercial DART-like systems; SAIC, Vaisala, Sonardyne (U.K.) others have systems in development
- Fugro has one deployed off Banda Aceh
- Germany has deployed a DART-like system off Indonesia
- US has made progress on next generation DART technology: Easy to Deploy



# US Tsunami Program now has 15 DART II Systems Deployed

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's  
**National Data Buoy Center**  
Center of Excellence in Marine Technology

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**New! - Important NDBC Web Site Changes**

**Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis (DART) buoys now in the Atlantic!**

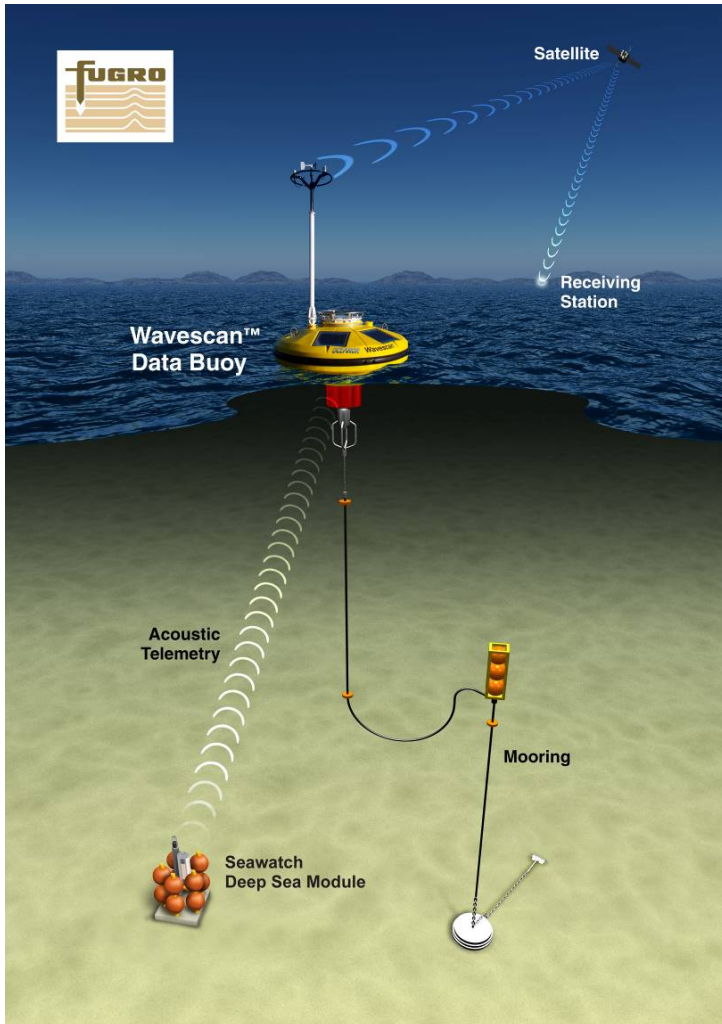
Recent Data Historical Data Observations Search NOAA Marine Observations TAO NOAA Coastal Storms Program **DART**

Place pointer on station to display corresponding plot or click on station to view station page.

[DART Program Description](#)

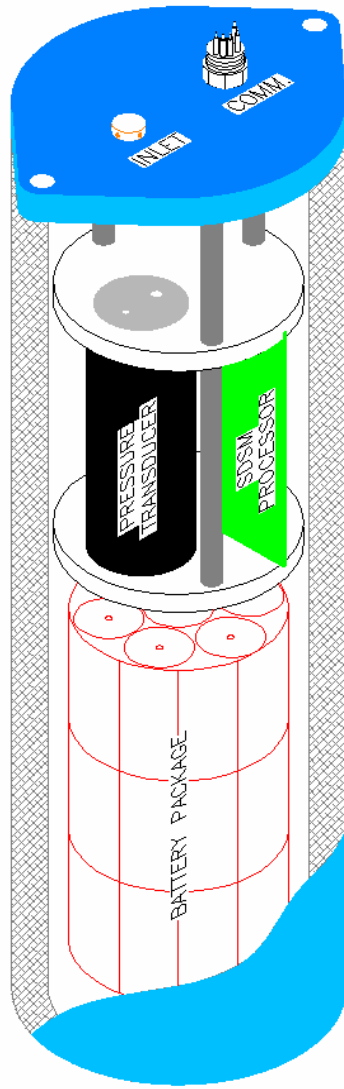
Fugro/Oceanor

# SeaWatch Tsunami Surveillance



- The SeaWatch Deep Sea Module (SDSM), the most recent enhancement to the SeaWatch system
- In line with IOC/WMO recommendations including:
  - System functionality
  - Technical specifications
  - Certification
- Continuously measures the pressure on the sea floor
- Every 15 seconds:
  - Calculates water depth from the pressure measurements using standard formulae
  - Compares the last measured value to a forecasted value. The forecast is calculated statistically from previous measurements
  - If the difference is over a preset limit, the SDSM will switch into alarm mode and transmit the measurements every 15 seconds for a minimum of 3 hours

# SeaWatch Deep Sea Module (SDSM)



## Specifications

Meas. period:	15 s
Sensitivity:	0.001 meters
Processing:	Tidal variation eliminating algorithm with adjustable threshold (typically ~cm)
Range:	700, 1400, 2100, 4200 or 6000 meters
Material:	Duplex steel, designed for 6000 m depth
Data transmission:	140 – 2400 bits/s acoustic
Battery capacity:	2 years, alkaline batteries
Additional seabed sensors possible	



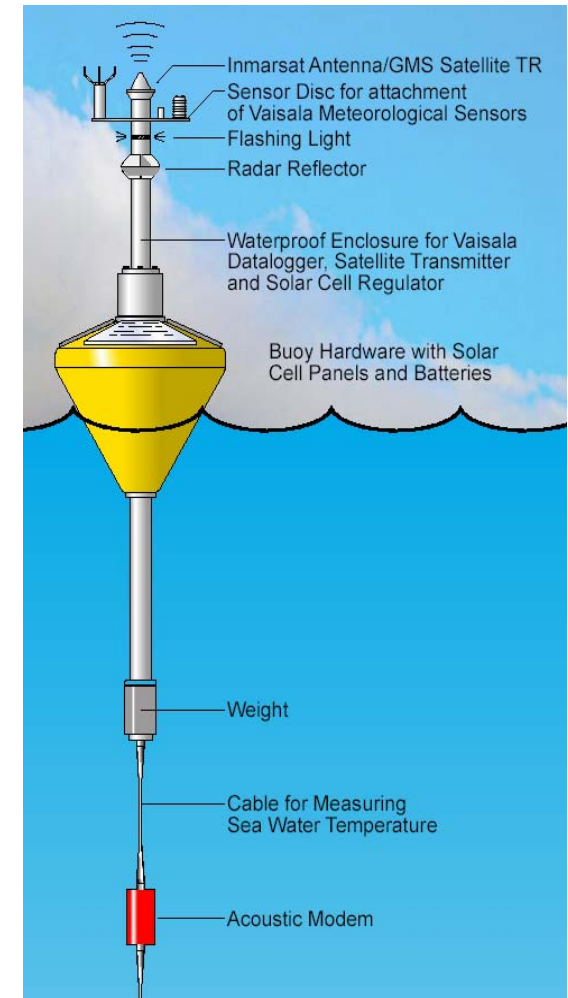
# Buoy deployment off Banda Aceh



Vaisala/Aanderaa/Benthos

# Surface Buoy Construction key features

- Surface Buoy Construction is built to move vertically in extreme weather conditions
- Key features for "cone-shaped" buoy with low center of gravity.
  - Limit pitch and roll
  - Buoy moving vertically (up and down in wave and storm events)
- Higher stability in buoy providing:
  - Accurate Meteorological data
  - Low and Stable acoustic communication
- Configured to handle one (1) atmospheres pressure of water (10 meter), if dragged below sea surface during extraordinary events.

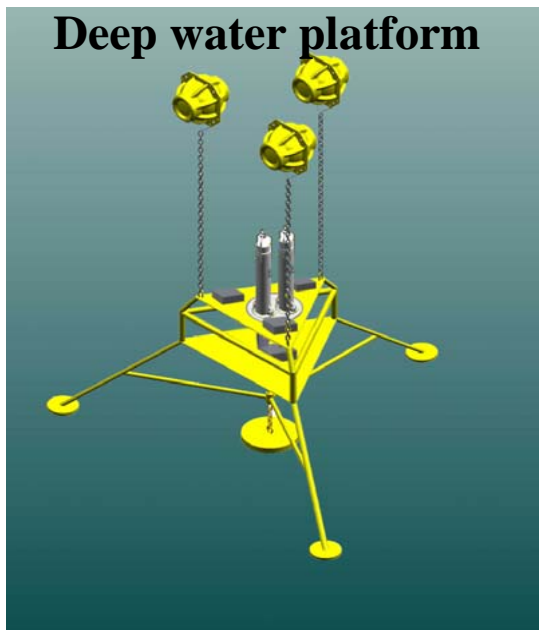


# Surface Buoy Construction key features, continued

- Battery Bank of 160Ah and 5 x 24W Solar Panels (with regulator)
- Radar reflector; Blinking light (flashing light), Programmable IALA sequence
- Easy access for service of equipment located in watertight compartments
- Polyethylene flotation with counter weight:
  - Buoy flotation hardware will stay floating even if the polyethylene shell is punctured after collision with a sharp object.
- Material used for surface buoy
  - Titanium for subsurface connectors and metallic structure
  - Hard anodized seawater aluminum and titanium for above surface construction.
- 15 years with experience in high wave conditions surviving Typhoons and the north sea with waves up to 30 meter+

# Deep Sea Bottom Package: proven & improved technology from NOAA DART

- Pressure Sensor is Paroscientific Quartz Pressure sensor 4000 series
- Tilt Sensor technology; same as used by NOAA
- Benthos acoustic data communications, used on Dart system by NOAA
  - Improved to include Gimble System
  - Improved to use the new 60Deg communication transducer (16-21kHz)
- Benthos Acoustic release system used by NOAA



**Paroscientific Pressure Sensor,  
Series 4000**



**Benthos**

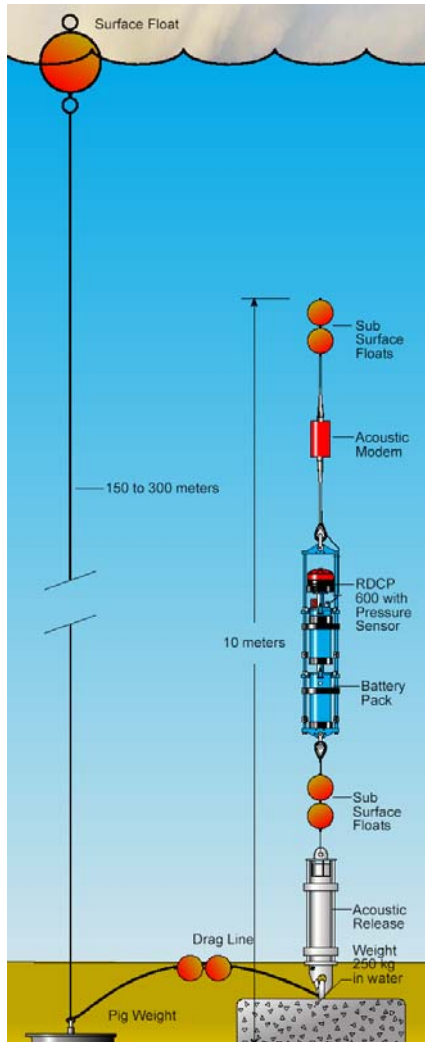
## **Acoustic Release and Modem**

1. Fully functional modem
2. Mechanical release
3. 12000 m depth
4. 5000kg load
5. Supports 1-2 RS232





# Bottom package for shallow waters; RDCP600



RDCP 600 is equipped with a high accuracy pressure sensor with resolution of 0.20 cm.

- Water level is logged constantly at 2Hz and transmitted every 5 minutes to the surface
- Using standard proven technology that measured Tsunami in Dec. 2004 outside the cost of India
- The system is remotely controlled from a main control center on-shore
- Reprogramming of new sampling interval can be done via satellite and acoustic links

The system provide several parameters to indicate a tsunami wave movement:

- Pressure sensor giving pressure (tide) data detecting abnormal pressure (tides)
- Bottom current direction (and speed) detecting abnormal current directions and speeds
- Tilt sensor detecting abnormal instrumentation tilt (movement)

All these parameters are likely to change if a tsunami occurs

- see separate presentation on the actual measurement data sampled during Tsunami December 2004

# Maintenance and Service of the Buoy System

- Light weight and Compact design => Smaller boat can be used for deployment and recovery
  - 20-35 meter boat with crane for 2 metric ton and winch system for 2 metric ton
- Modular Design => Sections of buoy can be serviced separately
- All cables and wiring are inside the buoy => Can not be cut or damaged
- Structure is angled and Solar Cell are incorporated in structure => Fishermen and mammals can not “walk” on buoy.
- Batteries are designed to last for 5 years => Replace battery pack only every 5 years
- Antifouling is painted on buoy and cables; Repaint the buoy every 12-18 months
- Buoy is built to be dragged under 10 meter => Can survive extreme conditions without need for repair
- Acoustic receiver is installed 20 meter under the sea surface => Less biofouling and needs for maintenance

SAIC

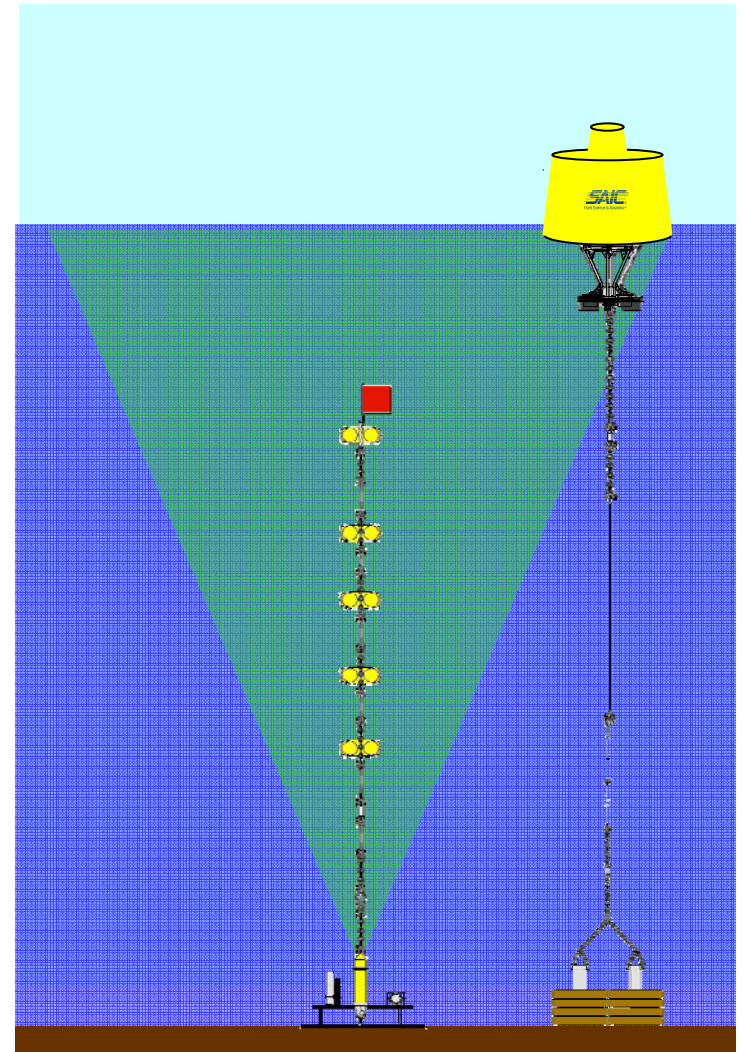


## **SAIC Tsunami System Capabilities**

- **SAIC Provides Engineering Support And Builds The DART II System For NOAA At NDBC**
- **SAIC Designs And Builds Multi-sensor Buoys & Cabled Systems For Other Government Agencies**

# MULTI-HAZARD BUOYS AND WARNING SYSTEMS

- Design
- Integration
  - Sensors
  - Processing
  - Communications
  - Power
  - Mooring
- Production
- Deployment
- Maintenance
- Integrated Logistics System
- Data Management and Data Fusion
- Modeling
- Consequence Assessment
- Command / Disaster Warning Centers





# **SAIC Buoy Design Features**

## ***Improved DART II Design***

### ***Buoy Hull***

- New Foam Hull with embedded metallic framework
- Painting not required due to integral color pigment, no void air tests – minimal maintenance
- Excellent resistance to environmental agents, includes UV Resistant top layer, self-fendering with improved ability to withstand damage
- Foam is closed cell with minimal absorption of water even if exterior surface is damaged

### ***Electronics Buoy Well***

- Removable Well for easier maintenance.

### ***Electronics***

- Simplified circuitry
- Separate redundant electronic enclosures; interchangeable

### ***Batteries***

- Higher power density, larger voltage potential per cell and increased life cycle.

# SAIC Design Advantages

- Longer hull life
- Greater reserve buoyancy
- Simpler design, less expensive construction
- Expandability
- Less maintenance
- More rapid construction
- Easier shipment and deployment
- More COTS hardware components

Sonardyne (UK)

### Sonardyne launches Tsunami Detection System



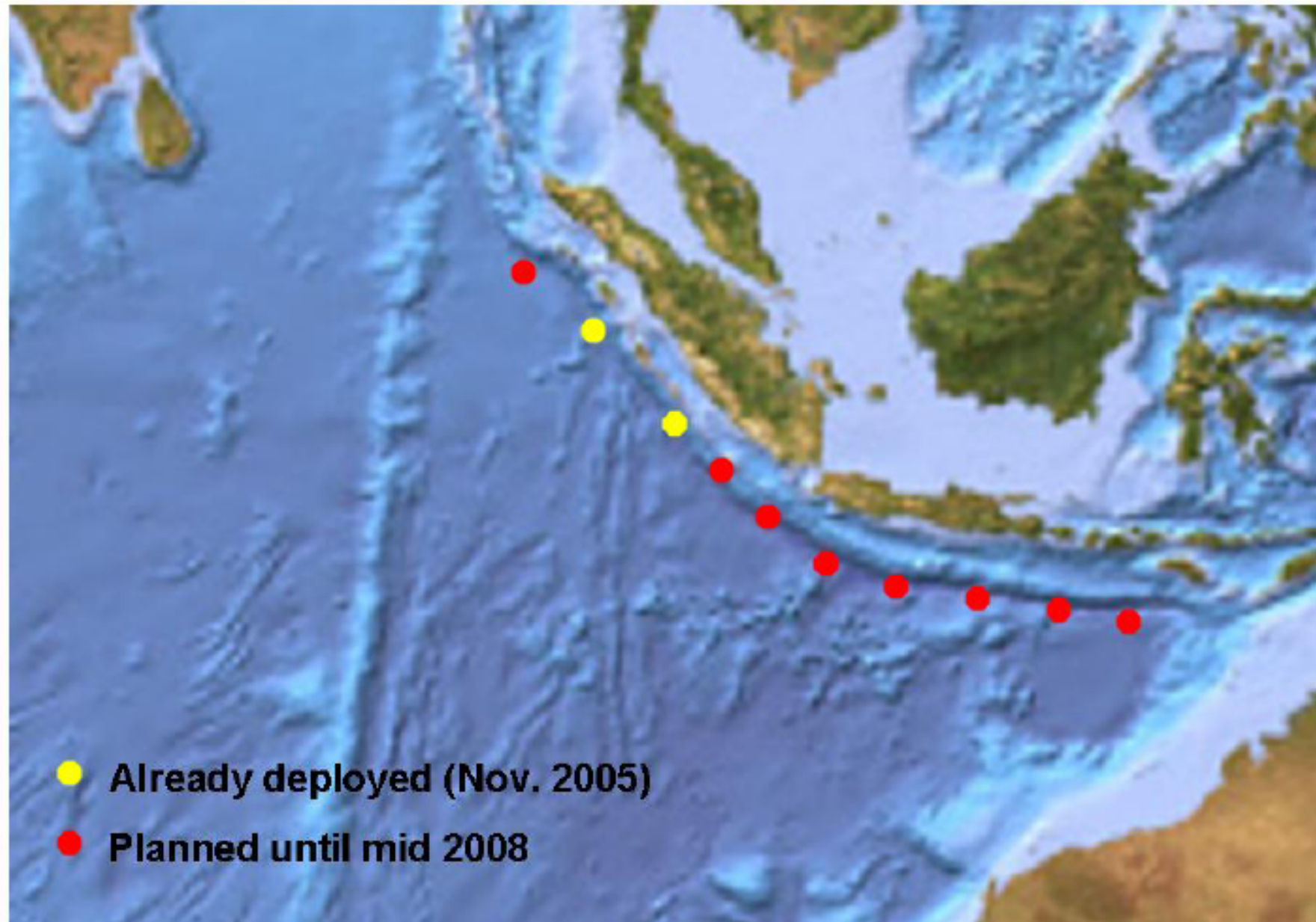
A dependable system for providing advance warning of tsunami waves has been developed by Sonardyne International Ltd of Yateley, UK. The company is a world leader in subsea acoustic communications technology and the new system was first presented on Sonardynes stand at the Oceanology International '06 Exhibition, London.

# Germany/Indonesia Partnership





## Indonesian-German TEWS Buoy Positions



# DART II Easy-to-Deploy

# DART II Easy-to-Deploy Design Goals

- Meet science requirements for detection
- Low cost – acquisitions, deployments, support
- Vandal resistant
- Long life
- “Factory built” - exportable design
- Deep water, high latitude capable
- Simplified deployments
- Decreased ship requirements
- Safety at sea



PMEL -Engineering Development Division Seattle, WA





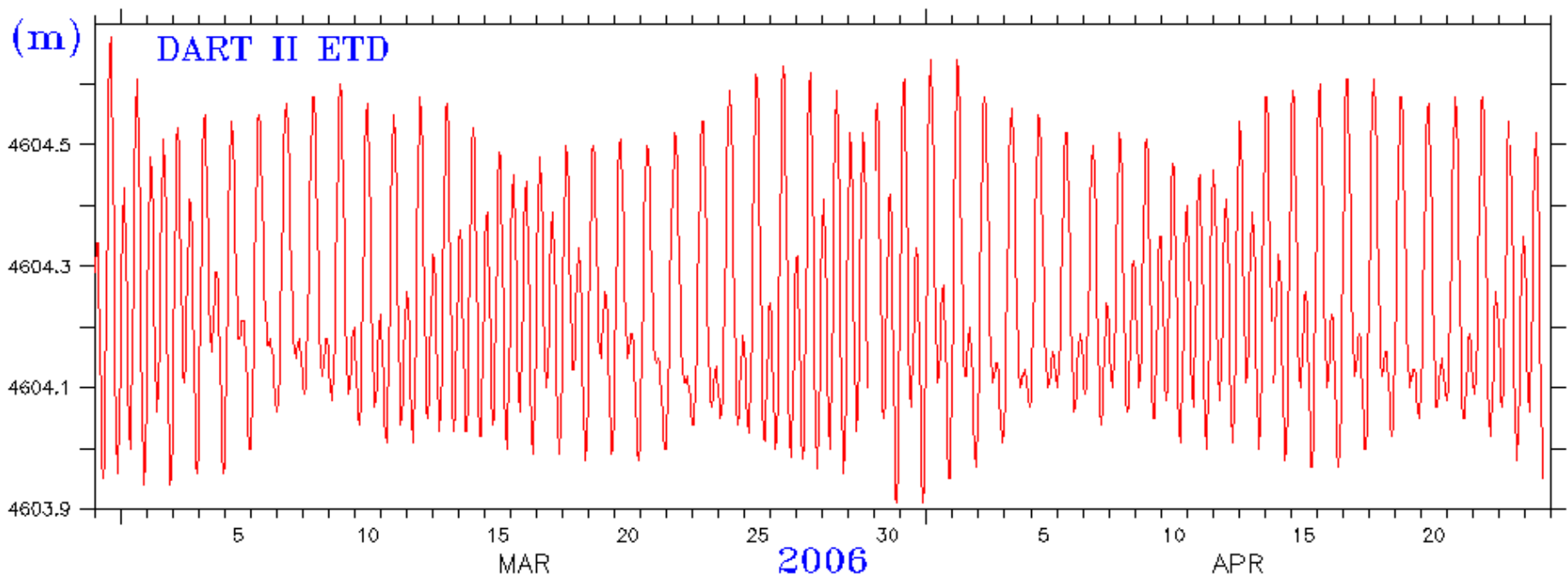
PMEL -Engineering Development Division Seattle, WA





PMEL -Engineering Development Division Seattle, WA

**DART II Easy To Deploy :**  
Current test off Hawaii indicates  
**99.3%** data return  
for the past 60 day period,  
accurate detection of Tonga tsunami



# What's Next

- Need for affordable, reliable tsunami detection systems world-wide
- Expect many qualified suppliers
- Standards and protocols critical for
  - Quality assurance
  - interoperability